

Bridge Fund for several agricultural and micro credit initiatives in Tibet. The remaining \$250,000 will be made available through a competitive process for NGO's who qualify for project funding.

#### CONCLUSION

The treatment of Tibetans by the Chinese government over the past 50 years has been inconsistent with international norms and standards of respect for fundamental human rights. The Dalai Lama has shown enormous courage in accepting the impracticality of insisting on independence and calling for "genuine autonomy" within Chinese sovereignty. Chinese spokesmen have responded by stating their willingness to engage in a dialogue with the Dalai Lama if he renounces independence and pro-independence activities. The problem appears to be solvable. Ultimately it comes down to a question of will, especially on Beijing's side. There are significant Chinese interests that could be advanced in moving forward on Tibetan autonomy. The Dalai Lama is still active and healthy; his prestige will be crucial in carrying the opinion of the Diaspora and most Tibetans in the autonomous regions. Only he can ensure the successful implementation of a negotiated settlement.

Conversely, maintaining order over an unhappy population is a drain on the resources of a still developing country. Widespread knowledge of China's human rights offenses in Tibet has brought about pressure on China's leadership to explain its Tibet policy to the international community. My impression is that the situation in Tibet deeply troubles China's international partners and foreign leaders and that this is affecting their diplomatic engagement in Western countries.

Since China's number one priority is the stability and the unity of the PRC, Chinese leaders may find that a more enlightened policy toward Tibet would be an important step toward enhancing the respect they have earned from the economic transformation of their country. It is my sincere hope that parties will resume dialogue that looked so promising in 1998. Preservation of Tibet's unique cultural and religious traditions depends on it.

In closing, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify today. I look forward to working with you another year on this extremely important issue.

#### TRIBUTE TO BASTROP HIGH SCHOOL ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

#### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Student Council Energy and Environment Committee of Bastrop High School in Bastrop, Texas. This dedicated group of students has been working diligently on projects to increase awareness about energy conservation and the environment.

Some of their projects include trash pick-up, recycling, efficient driving and car maintenance training, and coordination of Earth Day festivities in Bastrop on the third weekend of April. They have also spread information by way of books, pamphlets and posters around their community. Not only has their work improved the safety and appearance of the cam-

#### EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

pus and surrounding area, but it has also increased feelings of school unity and pride among the students.

Their local focus is an example to all of us that local involvement is key to solving most problems faced by Americans today. I am proud to represent such a responsible and dedicated group of young people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting the Student Council of Bastrop High School. This is an excellent way to show sincere appreciation for those who take the time and energy to improve their communities for themselves and others.

#### HONORING THE WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

#### HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, although yesterday was the day for the Michigan State men's and University of Connecticut women's basketball teams to shine, I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the winners of the other national championship that took place during the month of March. While North Carolina and Duke both performed admirably during the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, only one team from Tobacco Road returned home this past weekend with the champion's hardware and only one team from the ACC will begin next year's season on a winning streak—my hometown Wake Forest Demon Deacons—the past Thursday evening in Madison Square Garden the Deacons easily disposed of Notre Dame to win its first national invitational tournament. Now the critics of this tournament will be quick to call Wake Forest the "65th best team in the Nation"—a reference to not making the NCAA field of 64. And several Wake fans, in midst of a 3–9 mid-season slump, might have taken a 65th place finish, but the Deacons, led by Coach Dave Odom and his staff chose to turn this season around, winning 8 of its last 9 games, salvaging a 22–14 record and a national championship. Credit for this victory goes to all the Deacon players, from leading scorer Darius Songalia and NIT Tournament MVP Robert O'Kelley to strong bench support from Craig Dawson and Josh Shoemaker. The Deacons losing only two players from this year's team, look to carry the momentum of this late season success into next year's season, when they hope to readily hand over the NIT championship trophy as they make their way to the ultimate goal—the NCAA Tournament.

Once again—congratulations to Wake Forest.

#### H. RES. 458, AUTISM AWARENESS

#### HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the importance of autism awareness, as

well as to offer my support and to express my admiration for my constituents, Shelly and Aiden Reynolds, for their hard work and dedication in co-founding Unlocking Autism.

Unlocking Autism is an organization dedicated to raising public awareness about autism as well as raising money for biomedical research. This organization has launched a national awareness project called Open Your Eyes, and is striving to collect 58,000 pictures of persons with autism from across the United States. This collection will debut in Washington, DC from April 5th thru 9th of this year.

The Hear-Their-Silence Rally is a response to the fact that autism and related conditions have been estimated to occur in as many as 1 in 500 individuals (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1997). This statistic is higher than the incidences of Multiple Sclerosis, Downs Syndrome, or Cystic Fibrosis. At least 400,000 people in the United States are affected, and yet little is known about this disease.

When people become aware of a disease, they will begin to strive for, and demand action to further the understanding and prevention of that disease.

To this end, I am pleased to be sponsoring legislation that will express the sense of the House of Representatives. I urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend to the Postmaster General a commemorative postage stamp which would further the cause of autism awareness and place autism before the American people.

Shelly and Aiden Reynolds have used the reality of their son Liam's diagnosis of autism to fuel their fight to bring this disease to the fore front of national awareness. Countless others have joined their efforts. A commemorative stamp would give a face to those individuals afflicted with autism. Let us give them a voice

#### CHRISTINE BELL—A GOOD CITIZEN

#### HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to submit this outstanding essay on "good citizenship" for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It was written by one of my constituents, Christine Bell, a high school student in Morland, KS who won first place in an essay contest sponsored by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Hays, Kansas. Christine's essay reminds us all that it is an honor to be a citizen of the United States and that the key to maintaining our freedoms and liberties is to exercise them. She pays tribute to our founding fathers, the veterans, and active military who put their lives on the line for our country and reminds us all what has been risked to protect the red, white and blue. Christine also points out that there are numerous ways to serve our country in addition to the military. Voting in elections and removing your hat during the Star Spangled Banner are to small ways that Christine mentions people can show good citizenship.

I was extremely impressed with Christine Bell's essay and her belief in the need for

good citizenship. I hope she will continue her efforts on behalf of the merits of good citizenship. Treating others with respect is the most basic concept of maintaining freedom, and Christine has already discovered this early in her life. I congratulate Christine on her insight and her efforts in promoting good citizenship and respect for those who have made this country so great.

OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE AND OUR  
RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESERVE IT

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America." Students of this nation once stood in their classrooms with their right hand over their heart in allegiance to the flag which symbolizes their freedom. Students across the country no longer stand to pledge allegiance to their flag every morning and many could not correctly recite the pledge if asked to do so.

When I attend ball games and watch the parents' example. I begin to see why respect for the flag has been lost. Many adults do not remove ball caps, and the majority fail to put their right hand on their heart or even look at the flag when the "Star Spangled Banner" is sung.

Have Americans forgotten how fortunate they are to live in a free country? The fathers of this country fought to break free from the bondage of Great Britain. Many lives were lost as blood and tears were shed for the freedom of every single person who lives in the United States. On July 4, 1776, we declared independence and then won, in battle, the right to that independence.

When I talk to soldiers in our United States Army, I find that these people truly desire to preserve a nation so well-founded. Our soldiers are very honorable and deserve respect for volunteering their lives to serve this country. Our veterans deserve even more recognition for fighting for our country.

Why then, do United States soldiers have to put up with mocking civilians who implicitly spit on and shame them? These ignorant civilians do not realize that the tax money they are so fervently worried about is spent to serve them in times of crisis. The money our government invests in armed forces is to protect and preserve this country that serves its citizens. The lack of respect for the flag and for our soldiers, however, is not the only downfall in the American public.

With every presidential election of the twentieth century, the number of those who vote has systematically lowered. If that trend continues at the rate it has, after only a few more elections, the number of votes will be so low that we, as voters, may lose our right to vote for the President of the United States. In a country where the people have such an opportunity to make their voices heard, it is said to see less than half of the eligible voters cast a vote. The people of America need to take more interest in their country and strive to preserve their rights. If we do not exercise them, we very well may lose them.

The individuals in our government also need to earn respect and become the honorable leaders they should be. Honesty would be a very good first step. Americans have lost respect for President Clinton because of his occasional inability to tell the truth. The Clinton sex scandals are not far in the back of our minds, and the events at Waco, Texas have brought controversy also.

A combination of honesty, respect, and remembrance may just be the key to preserving our American heritage.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NURSING RESEARCH

#### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I stand today as a former nurse and strong supporter of the National Institute of Nursing Research, to draw your attention to the tremendous challenges faced by women suffering from chronic health conditions that affect their productivity and quality of life. I urge my colleagues to join me in making the advancement of women's health a national priority.

Because of my nursing background, I know first-hand that it is imperative to assure access to quality healthcare. And as a woman, I know that we have special health needs. Studies show that women suffer from a variety of ailments such as heart disease, breast cancer, and depression at alarming rates. Women experience more chronic illness and are prescribed more medications by their physicians than men. Depression, for example, most often strikes women between the ages of 25 and 44. Because of the devastating impact of depression on women during these prime productive years, depression now ranks as the number one cause of disability in women.

I was proud to co-sponsor a recent congressional briefing with the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research entitled, "Reaching Gender Equity in the 21st Century: A Renewed Focus on Women's Health." The briefing featured nurse researchers who presented compelling data on different chronic, debilitating conditions that affect women three times more often than men.

The National Institute for Nursing Research (NINR) appreciates the affects of chronic diseases on a woman's productivity and has merely touched the tip of the iceberg relative to women's health needs and concerns. I am proud to be a member of the nursing community and support the continued work at the NINR. I am circulating a letter to the Appropriations Committee, calling for a significant increase in funding for NINR. NINR is currently undertaking important research to help Americans most efficiently manage their health care problems, so that they will not have to seek hospital care. The purpose of NINR is to support and conduct research and research training to reduce the burden of illness and disability, to improve health-related quality of life, and to promote health and prevent disease, including research on the best methods to help people choose health-promoting behaviors and lifestyles. Research programs supported by the NINR address a number of critical public health and patient care questions, including women's health issues.

Here in Congress, we need to support efforts to empower more women to understand and effectively manage chronic illnesses and live more productive and happier lives. We also need to reaffirm our commitment to advancing the understanding of women's health in this country and to assure that scientific knowledge is quickly put into medical practice. I am proud to support NINR and its research, and to have co-sponsored their recent event

April 6, 2000

focusing on women's health. We have made major accomplishments in this area, but we in Congress must keep supporting these efforts. There is still so much to be done.

### PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, many fingers have been pointed today and much has been said about what this side believes and what that side believes. I am here to tell you what I believe.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2149, the Late-term Abortion Restriction Act. Roe v. Wade and successor decisions are the law of the land and this bill is consistent with the law.

The bill would ban all late-term abortions, regardless of the type of procedure used, with exceptions only to protect the life of the mother and to avert serious adverse health consequences. Because it bans abortions based upon viability of the fetus rather than the type of procedure used, it will prevent late-term abortions in a morally and constitutionally sound manner.

I considered many factors in deciding to co-sponsor H.R. 2149. I am a believer in the Constitution. The Supreme Court has repeatedly confirmed that our rights include the right to make our own medical decisions.

No one can say ending a pregnancy is an easy decision, nor can anyone claim the idea of late term abortions for only convenience is anything but ethically wrong. This bill strikes a balance and adheres to the Court's requirement that any law protect the life and health of the pregnant woman. H.R. 2149 meets all these constitutional requirements.

This bill should be law because it addresses what the American people truly want to stop—the termination of a viable fetus during late stages of pregnancy, unless there is a serious threat to life or health of the mother.

The President has said he would sign H.R. 2149 into law. If opponents of abortion truly want to stop late-term abortions, this is the bill that will do it.

Today, I will vote against H.R. 3660, the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. I urge my colleagues to consider H.R. 2149 as an effective and constitutionally sound solution to this deeply personal issue.

### TRIBUTE TO ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY IN NORMAL, ALABAMA

#### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding academic institution in my district, Alabama A&M University on the occasion of their 125th anniversary. Since its founding by Dr. William Hooper Council, it